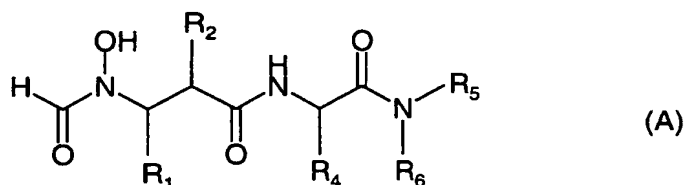


Antibacterial Agents

This invention relates to novel hydroxamic acid and N-formyl hydroxylamine derivatives having antimicrobial, particularly antibacterial activity, to methods of treatment using such compounds, and to pharmaceutical and veterinary compositions comprising such compounds.

Background to the Invention

Our copending International Patent Application No. WO 99/39704 describes and claims, *inter alia*, the use of N-formylhydroxylamine derivatives of formula (A) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof in the preparation of an antibacterial composition:



wherein R₁ represents hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl or C₁-C₆ alkyl substituted by one or more halogen atoms; R₂ represents a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl, cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆ alkyl)- or aryl(C₁-C₆ alkyl)- group; R₄ represents the side chain of a natural or non-natural alpha amino acid, and R₅ and R₆ when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted saturated heterocyclic ring of 3 to 8 atoms which ring is optionally fused to a carbocyclic or second heterocyclic ring.

In addition our International Patent Application No. WO 99/59568 describes the use of analogues of the N-formylhydroxylamine derivatives of WO 99/39704 (wherein the N-formylhydroxylamine group is replaced by a hydroxamic acid group) in the preparation of an antibacterial composition.

Further, our international patent Application No. WO 01/10834 relates to a group of antibacterially active hydroxamic acid and N-formyl hydroxylamine compounds which differ in structure from those of International